

**MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
NOVEMBER 3, 2021**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on November 3, 2021, was called to order by Chairperson Nelson at 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the District, 3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028. *(All meetings are being held with in person attendance following County and State COVID guidelines as well as virtually.)* Chairperson Nelson, presiding.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Member Brazier *(via teleconference)*, Member Marnett, Member Nelson, Member Gasca *(via video conference)*.

Also Present: Executive Assistant Washburn, Alternate Largent, Information Technology Manager Khattab, Engineering and CIP Program Manager Williams, Operations Manager Gutierrez, Construction and Maintenance Supervisor Lagunas.

Also Present Via Teleconference or Video Conference:

Associate Engineer Powers, Water Operations Supervisor Coffey, Engineering Technician Rubio, Project Manager Parra, Project Manager Tamimi.

One member of the public attended in-person and three members of the public were present via teleconference or video teleconference.

4. **INSTRUCTIONS TO ALLOW PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS FROM THOSE ATTENDING THIS MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE OR VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Mr. Nelson read aloud the instructions for those attending the meeting via teleconference or video conference.

5. **SEATING OF ALTERNATES**

There were no alternates seated.

6. **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (Government Code §54954.2)**

Mr. Gutierrez requested that Item #18 be deleted. There was no objection from the committee.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT RELATING TO ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA (Limit 3 Minutes)**

There were no comments.

***8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
A. October 6, 2021

Mr. Marnett pointed out the word “banned” should be “bonded”.

Motion:

To approve the minutes inclusive of the language change mentioned.

Action: Approve, Moved by Member Marnett, Seconded by Member Nelson.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Ayes = 3).

Ayes: Member Brazier, Member Marnett, Member Nelson.

9. GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

There were no comments due to the absence of Mr. Kennedy.

10. ENGINEERING AND CIP PROGRAM MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Williams noted since the committee did not have a quorum at their September meeting, the “As Needed Expenditures Report” was for October and how the October and November reports will be provided at the December Board meeting.

11. OPERATIONS MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Gutierrez stated he will hold his comments for Items #15-#20.

12. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Nelson acknowledge Steve McKesson being in attendance. He asked Mr. McKesson if he was still interested in joining this committee after attending in observation on several occasions. Mr. Nelson asked Ms. Washburn to make a note to include an agenda item on the December agenda for possible recommendation for Mr. McKesson’s appointment by the Board.

13. BOARD ACTION UPDATES

Mr. Williams reported the Board approved the Hutton and Turner right-of-way acquisition, Notice of Completion for the Horse Ridge Creek project, a Joint Use Agreement for construction of Citro, authorization for the sole source selection of premanufactured pump stations from EFI, a Construction Contract for the Lift Station 1 Replacement Project, a Professional Services Agreement for Construction Management for the Lift Station 1 Replacement Project, to carry funds forward from the previous fiscal year for the Rainbow Heights Pump Station project, as well as executed RMWD’s Level 1 Water Shortage Contingency Plan based on the Governor’s Executive Order.

***14. PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (PEIR) CHANGE ORDER FOR HELIX ENVIRONMENTAL (ENGINEERING)**

Mr. Tamimi explained staff was bringing forward a proposed Change Order No. 1 for the Professional Services Contract with Helix Environmental for the District PEIR. He noted the PEIR was intended to streamline the CEQA process for District projects. He clarified RMWD currently handling CEQA analysis project-by-project which can result delayed project construction as well as unforeseen expenses.

Mr. Tamimi stated Helix Environmental' s scope was limited in the number of repair/maintenance and near future CIP projects to analyze; therefore, this Change Order is to capture the costs associated with analyzing the District's entire potable and sewer pipeline system. He noted the amount of the Change Order totaled \$65,140 which includes a credit of \$11,050 for a hydrology water quality technical report that was not needed. He pointed out half of the costs of the new scope adds 2,300 projects and 30 site visits for the analysis, listed what is covered in the new scope, and that the Change Order extends the existing agreement from November 29, 2021, through June 30, 2022, for project completion.

Mr. Tamimi stated staff was seeking a recommendation from the committee to bring this item to the Board at their December 7, 2021, meeting. Mr. Nelson said given the magnitude of the system and locations, it was not surprising a Change Order of this amount would be needed to complete the work and found himself supportive of this amendment.

Ms. Brazier stated she was also supportive of this amendment.

Motion:

That the committee recommend that the Board approve the amendment.

Action: Approve, Moved by Member Brazier, Seconded by Member Marnett.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Ayes = 4).

Ayes: Member Brazier, Member Marnett, Member Nelson, Member Gasca.

Member Gasca joined the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

***15. RAINBOW HEIGHTS PUMP STATION PROJECT STATUS UPDATE (ENGINEERING)**

Mr. Williams shared photographs of the Rainbow Heights Pump Station delivery as he described it being set. He noted the entire pump station arrived prefabricated.

Mr. Marnett inquired as to the cost of the pump station. Ms. Largent noted the total budget for this project is approximately \$2.7 million. Mr. Tamimi confirmed the cost of this pump station was \$1.5 million.

Mr. Gutierrez talked about each of the steps taken during the delivery process as well as described the size and weight of the pump station. He noted testing will start in early December after which a 14-day testing period will take place before acceptance.

Mr. Nelson stated he was curious as to whether EFI directed RMWD as to where the hookups and wiring would be located. Mr. Gutierrez explained this was determined by the design engineer, EFI, and the contractors. Mr. Williams added before these go into production, several meetings are conducted to work through all these details.

Discussion ensued regarding the permitting processes and regulatory requirements associated with this project.

Mr. Nelson said he would like to receive a report from staff in terms of whether this is not only preferential from a technical sense, but also financial once this project completes.

Discussion ensued regarding what steps would need to be taken should the installation equipment not be able to reach the proposed sites. Mr. Williams and Mr. Gutierrez provided examples of where this type of pump station would or would not possibly work.

Mr. Marnett asked if RMWD was now in sync with SDG&E. Mr. Gutierrez responded noting a swath of land will be vacant for MWD once installation is complete.

16. CATHODIC PROTECTION PROJECT STATUS UPDATE (ENGINEERING)

Mr. Williams updated the committee noting this was the first implementation of cathodic protection going out for bid on October 25, 2021, with the last day for questions being November 1, 2021, at which time no questions were received. He noted bids will be collected and opened on November 15, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. at the District offices.

Mr. Williams mentioned copies of the plans were posted on the website for everyone interested to access as well as how this was a niche market. He stated staff hopes to bring this to the Board on December 7, 2021, for consideration.

Mr. Nelson asked if it appeared the project will be employing materials that fall under the current fad of supply chain issues. Mr. Williams said it could; however, staff was hopeful it would not.

Mr. Williams explained there was a great deal of coordination with SDG&E for this project due to their having a large high pressure gas main running through the area. He pointed out this will be the first, but cathodic protection will become the norm at RMWD going forward to assist with reducing the number of pipeline repairs.

Mr. Gutierrez talked about the steps taken until pipes can be replaced. He said depending on how this goes and the cost, it will benchmark how RMWD will proceed and budget in future years.

Mr. Marnett asked what length of pipe. Mr. Tamimi stated it was over a little more than one mile as well as noted the pipe was installed in 1956 and was 20" in diameter. Mr. Marnett inquired as to the size of the anodes. Mr. Tamimi answered the anodes would be 70 pounds. Mr. Williams said if the desired depth can be reached one will be installed at each location with a few along the way, but if the depth cannot be reached, three per location will be installed with them staggered along the way.

Mr. Gutierrez pointed out the last time this line blew out, it put approximately 400 customers out of water during extremely hot weather conditions which was why it was selected as the pilot project.

Mr. Marnett requested a copy of the design be sent to the committee members via email.

Mr. Stewart introduced himself to the committee as a former director and noted he had a conversation recently regarding cathodic protection and how the person with whom he spoke RMWD has been in his area multiple times repairing water main breaks due to the manner in which the system was installed thirty years ago. He explained how this resonated with him and that he would like to suggest RMWD reach out to Fallbrook Oaks to see if there was an opportunity to place cathodic protection at their location while the pipeline is currently exposed. Mr. Gutierrez stated a pressure reducing station was recently installed in this area; however, staff would be interested in working collectively with Fallbrook Oaks to see if their work could take place at the same time as the work anticipated to be completed by RMWD in terms of water and sewer line upgrades. Mr. Stewart offered to share contact information for Fallbrook Oaks with Mr. Williams and Mr. Gutierrez, respectively.

17. THOROUGHbred LIFT STATION #1 PROJECT STATUS UPDATE (ENGINEERING)

Mr. Williams shared the results of the project bid opening with the award of contract going to JW Fowler as the lowest bidder; however, the District has received three different protests. He noted TC Construction was protesting JW Fowler for not being responsive and responsible and how SCW stated the same about both TC Construction and JW Fowler in their protest. He stated due to this situation, Construction Agreements have not been signed to date.

Mr. Nelson stated the bid protests were heard by the Board after which time they proceeded with awarding the contract; therefore, he was curious as to the current status. Mr. Williams reported following the Board meeting, RMWD did receive a Writ of Mandate from TC Construction which was currently under legal review; therefore, progression has been placed on hold.

Mr. Nelson inquired as to the construction management portion of this project. Mr. Williams stated there was no protest; however, over the next few weeks staff will be providing consulting firms with debriefs from staff. He said he will be emailing the committee members who reviewed the proposals for brief comments to be presented to the consulting firms when he meets with them.

18. RAINBOW HEIGHTS WATER LINE PROJECT UPDATE (OPERATIONS)

This item was deleted per Item #6.

***19. NORTH RIVER ROAD PROJECT STATUS UPDATE (OPERATIONS)**

Mr. Gutierrez provided an update on Phase 3 of the project. He noted there were eight different failures where chunks of the clay pipe were missing. He noted SCW was hired to address some of the deeper repairs with RMWD staff handling those that were shallower. He explained the steps taken in making the repairs.

Mr. Gutierrez stated as part of Phase 3 the manhole rings and lids have been replaced and how crews are currently inside the manholes conducting work to give a brand-new coating. He pointed out RMWD the Board approved the work being conducted to maintain this line because it is the only line that feeds to the Oceanside Treatment Plant that has not been maintained since being originally installed in the 1970's. Mr. Williams displayed photographs as Mr. Gutierrez explained the work being conducted as well as the results.

Mr. Nelson asked staff if they were comfortable with the level of work performed. Mr. Williams and Mr. Gutierrez confirmed.

Mr. Marnett inquired as to the area in which the work was being conducted. Mr. Gutierrez described the area covered.

Mr. Gutierrez mentioned the anticipated completion date for this project is mid-December.

20. WATER SERVICES UPGRADE PROGRAM (WSUP) PROJECT UPDATE (OPERATIONS)

Mr. Gutierrez reported the project was 78% completed with 6,863 meters exchanged and 1,908 remaining. He stated it anticipated the project will reach 90% completion in mid-January 2022 taking all the upcoming holidays into consideration. Discussion followed.

21. REDISTRICTING UPDATE

Mr. Khattab shared a presentation titled "Redistricting with Census Data" that was given at the October 26th Board meeting. He noted RMWD was required by law to recalculate the population in each of its five divisions and redistrict every ten years. He explained the steps taken throughout the process as well as how staff had written a script for calculating the population in all the District's voting precincts. Discussion followed.

It was noted there were no significant changes to the district's boundaries.

Mr. Nelson stated this information was fascinating and amazing; however, he wanted to know why this information was being presented to the committees. Mr. Khattab explained Mr. Kennedy asked for this to be shared with each committee to allow for an opportunity to receive as much input and feedback as possible.

Mr. Marnett asked if there were many parcels where people are occupying them that do not have water service. Mr. Gutierrez said he would need to look into this and provide a response at a later date. Mr. Marnett inquired as to whether there was another method for calculating the redistricting data utilizing the information RMWD has in place such as addresses. Mr. Khattab pointed out the census data provided does not come with addresses, but rather with geographical representation of the area it covers. Discussion ensued.

***22. AS-NEEDED SERVICES EXPENDITURES SUMMARY**

Mr. Nelson stated the information appeared to be unchanged. Mr. Williams confirmed.

23. LIST OF SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

It was noted committee member appointment of Steve McKesson, updates on the Lift Station 1 Construction Contract, Rainbow Heights Pump Station, WSUP, North River Road, as well as review of the Cathodic Protection Program bid.

Ms. Brazier stated RMWD has been talking about the cathodic protection program for quite some time and she was really pleased to hear the report today.

24. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Nelson.

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Flint Nelson, Committee Chairperson

Dawn M. Washburn, Board Secretary